Agricultural production vis-a-vis **rainfall**

357. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total level of rainfall in the country during the monsoon;

(b) the likely fall in the levels during this season; and

(c) its impact on agricultural production during this year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Southwest Monsoon rainfall during 2003 for the country as a whole was 102% of the long period average (LPA).

(b) India Meteorological Department (IMD) is not issuing any long range forecast for Northeast monsoon (October—December) season. From 1 st October to 26th November 2003, the rainfall received for the country as a whole was 108% of the LPA.

(c) The favourable rainfall from the Southwest Monsoon and Northeast Monsoon has brightened the prospects of Kharif and Rabi crops in 2003-04. According to the first advance estimate, the Kharif Foodgrains production for 2003-04 is 108.45 million tonnes compared with 90.48 million tonnes in 2002-03 (4th advance estimate). Similarly Kharif Oilseeds production for 2003-04 has been estimated at 15.08 million tonnes compared with 9.22 million tonnes in 2002-03.

KVKs in Tripura

358. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of setting up on Krishi Vigyan Kendras in each district of Tripura;

(b) the places of the State where these Kendras are going to be established; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in establishing these Kendras and the period by which they would be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There are four districts in Tripura. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established two Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in West Tripura and South Tripura districts.

(b) The Council has proposals for establishment of KVKs in the remaining two districts of North Tripura and Dhalai.

(c) The establishment of new KVKs depends on the availability of adequate land and identification of suitable organization. A Site Selection Committee has examined the proposals received from the Government of Tripura for the remaining two districts and assessed the logistics available for establishment of the KVKs during the Tenth Plan.

Agricultural University in Tripura

359. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are going to set up an Agricultural University in Tripura; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Government is not contemplating setting up any Agricultural University in Tripura.

Agricultural performance

360. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite all natural advantages, India's productivity of foodgrains per hectare is no more than three-fourth of the world average and less than half of that in agriculturally advanced countries;

(b) whether only five States namely Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, produce more grains than their requirement and more than two-third of the population lives in States that are still food-deficit;

(c) if so, whether Government have made efforts to find the reasons for its poor agricultural performance; and

(d) the action Government proposed to take in this regard?